

**Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway  
MSBU Advisory Committee Meeting**

**February 8, 2012  
2:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Renee Larson, Ron Larrivee, Richard Hopkins, Stanley Bliss

**County Staff:** Judith Nothdurft, Sandra Wright, Matthew Logan, Robert Halfhill

**Guests:** Ken Doherty, Park Pilikian, Larry Whitford

**Absent:** Jack Fawsett, Joseph Fabini

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. in Room B106, County Administration Building.

**Public Input:**

- Mr. Pilikian requested the Public Input portion of the meeting be placed at the end of the meeting due to the unavailability of the agenda prior to the meeting. This will allow for more participation Ms. Larson responded that the Public Input is at the beginning of the meeting to avoid disruption of the rest of the meeting.
- Mr. Pilikian suggested that the Apollo Waterway does not need channel markers due to its uniqueness. Ms. Larson said that the channel markers are a liability issue for the County. Discussion ensued regarding dredging all the canals to a wider width, but the price would be prohibitive. Ms. Larson stated that funding is not available for dredging at this time. Discussion about removal of channel markers will be addressed in the future.
- Mr. Whitford questioned the depth of the proposed dredging wanting to verify that the five-foot dredging depth is correct. There was discussion regarding the scope of the dredging project.
- Mr. Whitford commented that there is a manatee zone marker at the entrance to the Jupiter/Apollo Waterway. The sign does not conform to State statutes since it does not have the ordinance and permit information. Mr. Whitford said he would send photos of the sign to the committee so they can correspond with the State. Mr. Logan, Dredging Project Manager reported that he has already spoken with the Signing & Marking Division and they are researching this.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Minutes from the previous meeting are unavailable due to change in staffing and budget preparation but will be forwarded to the committee for review as soon as possible for approval at the next meeting.

## Unfinished Business:

- Dredging – Mr. Logan reported that Coastal Engineering submitted their response to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) request for additional information. The permit calls for -5-foot mean low water depth to the Myakka River with a 25-foot width that will be well marked. This project will involve coordination between the DEP, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS), Army Corps of Engineers, and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). To date everything looks good for the project to proceed. The committee requested copies of information submitted. Mr. Logan will send it to Ms. Nothdurft for distribution. There was discussion regarding the locations of the 25-foot widths. He will check the maps for the location of the 25-foot widths. Mr. Hopkins requested a charted path of the area but said a picture will suffice. Mr. Logan will check to see what is available and in what format. The County should hear back from DEP within 30-90 days.
- Budget - Mr. Halfhill discussed the December 12, 2011 meeting and the process to get an assessment increase. The County Administrator requires community outreach to show whether there is a consensus for an increase in assessment. The outreach needs to include full-time, part-time and vacant lot owners. Only emergency budget expenditures are being approved by the County Commissioners at this time. Mr. Fawsett is scheduled to meet with the County Administrator to discuss the rate increase and the outreach. Ms. Larson stated that the outreach can be completed and presented to Mr. Sandrock by March or April. Mr. Halfhill suggested that the committee consider presenting their request for an increase next fiscal year since their survey is still in the permitting stage, however, if the outreach project is completed in time, he will take the results to Mr. Sandrock. The committee should consider that once the letters to the community are mailed, the survey still must be returned and the results compiled.

The committee requested that Jack Fawsett submit a draft survey letter to Ms. Nothdurft for immediate approval and asked how long it would take for the County to do a mass mailing to all property owners. Mr. Halfhill said the letters could be mailed on 2/15/12 if the letter is finalized by close of business on Friday. The letter must require a response by 3/1/12. The amount of assessment increase needs to be clear. The committee agreed to do a door-to-door canvass in their own neighborhoods. The committee will be responsible for designing the neighborhood solicitation. They will only be going to waterfront property owners. Ms. Nothdurft and Ms. Larson will stay in touch to coordinate the community outreach project. In the meantime, Ms. Larson will meet with her commissioner.

Committee members do not feel they are receiving proper budget information. Ms. Nothdurft will forward the draft 2012/2013 budget as well as the first quarter 2012 Activity Report to the committee as soon as it is available.

There were questions regarding the amount of reserves, the 10-year payback plan for the Dredging Project, a two-year follow-up dredge, and full funding for the project before dredging begins.

Deb Smith, Budget and Administrative Services Division reported that the MSBU can borrow short-term when needed but must have approval from the Clerks Office. The Finance Division performs a financial analysis, the assessment must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. When the assessment is approved, then the project is approved and the budget is adopted. The taxing authority does the assessment. At that point it is appropriate to begin the project. The Finance Division attempts to minimize the interest rate.

All communications should go through Judith Nothdurft.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 23, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.